

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

5                   1. A portable refrigeration apparatus, comprising:  
                  a base defining an open interior cavity;  
                  a food container configured to be removably disposed within the  
interior cavity of the base; and  
                  an electric refrigeration unit operably associated with the base for  
cooling and circulating air such that the food container is cooled;  
10                  wherein the base and food container are arranged such that cool air  
is prevented from entering into or passing over the food container.

15               2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the food container is configured  
to be removably disposed within the interior cavity of the base in a generally  
sealed relationship therewith to trap the cool air therebetween.

20               3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the base is generally concave  
and includes an outer wall and an inner wall spaced from the outer wall to permit  
air flow therebetween.

                  4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the inner  
wall includes apertures for permitting cool air to flow therethrough and onto an  
outer surface of the food container.

25               5. The apparatus of claim 4, wherein a first portion of the inner wall  
includes air outlet apertures and a second portion of the inner wall, spaced from  
the first portion, includes air inlet apertures.

6. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein an upper portion of the food container engages with an upper portion of the base to form a seal to prevent cool air from passing therebetween.

5                   7. The apparatus of claim 6, wherein an upper lip of the food container sealingly engages an upper lip of the base.

                  8. The apparatus of claim 1, including a lid removably disposable over the food container.

10                   9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein the lid is adapted to sealingly engage with either the food container or the base so as to generally prevent air from entering the food container.

15                   10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the base is insulated.

                  11. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the food container is compartmentalized to accommodate different food items.

20                   12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the refrigeration unit comprises a compressor, a cooling coil coupled to the compressor and a fan for circulating cool air.

                  13. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the refrigeration unit comprises a thermoelectric couple device.

25                   14. The apparatus of claim 1, including a temperature control mechanism coupled to the refrigeration unit.

30                   15. A portable refrigeration apparatus, comprising:

a generally concave base having an outer wall and an inner wall defining an open interior cavity and spaced from the outer wall to permit air to flow therebetween;

5 a food container configured to be removably disposed within the interior cavity of the base in a generally sealed relationship therewith; and

an electric refrigeration unit operably associated with the base for cooling and circulating air such that the food container is cooled; and

a lid adapted to sealingly engage with either the food container or the base so as to generally prevent air from entering the food container;

10 wherein at least a portion of the inner wall includes apertures for permitting cool air to flow therethrough and over an outer surface of the food container.

15 16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein a first portion of the inner wall includes air outlet apertures and a second portion of the inner wall, spaced from the first portion, includes inlet apertures.

20 17. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein an upper portion of the food container engages with an upper portion of the base to form a seal to prevent cool air from passing therebetween.

18. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the base is insulated.

25 19. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the food container is compartmentalized to accommodate different food items.

20. The apparatus of claim 15, including a temperature control mechanism coupled to the refrigeration unit.